

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RBRAZEAL:JN

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: AMCHAM CONCERNS ABOUT ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY

1. ON SEPTEMBER 2, KEITH MICELI, AMCHAM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND ALEXANDER PERRY, PRESIDENT BUENOS AIRES AMCHAM, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN TO DISCUSS URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA SITUATIONS. MICELI REPORTED ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND EXPLAINED MONTEVIDEO AMCHAM'S CONCERNS THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL SUFFER IF KOCH AMENDMENT PASSES. MVD AMCHAM BOARD DOES NOT BELIEVE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION JUSTIFIES URUGUAY BEING SINGLED OUT FOR U.S. LEGISLATIVE SANCTIONS. THEY VERY MUCH CONCERNED "TRUE" STORY NOT BEING TOLD. PERRY SAID B.A. AMCHAM HAD SIMILAR CONCERNS REGARDING ARGENTINA, GIVEN U.S. LEGISLATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. SHLAUDEMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO MAKE THE URUGUAYAN CASE AND HEAD OFF KOCH AMENDMENT WOULD BE THROUGH INVITATION FOR VISIT BY IAHC. PERRY SAID HE

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WOULD BE IN MONTEVIDEO AROUND SEPTEMBER 15 AND WOULD

DISCUSS THAT POSSIBILITY WITH HIS FRIENDS IN THE URUGUAYAN
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING CRISTI, ALVAREZ AND
RAVENA.

3. ON ARGENTINA, SHLAUDEMANN NOTED OUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE CHAOTIC CONDITIONS FACED BY VIDELA GOVERNMENT.
BUT HE NOTED THAT PRESS REPORTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND
COUNTER-TERRORISM WERE CREATING A PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL
PROBLEM HERE THAT WOULD PERSIST IN THE ABSENCE OF
VISIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF MORE NORMAL
CONDITIONS. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE220829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBRAZEAL:JN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760337-1040
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760985/aaaacuyk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMCHAM CONCERNS ABOUT ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UY, AR, AMCHAM
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006